

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02802 210432Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 TRSE-00 /068 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5859

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USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2802

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: GROWING CONCERN OVER LEONE CONNECTION WITH FIGURE
INVOLVED IN LOCKHEED SCANDAL PUBLICITY

REF: ROME 2639

1. EMBOFFS HAVE HEARD INCREASING CONCERN EXPRESSED IN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CIRCLES CONCERNING EFFECT OF LINKAGE IN PRESS OF PRESIDENT LEONE WITH FIGURE INVOLVED IN PUBLICITY ON LOCKHEDD SCANDAL, ANTONIO LEFEBVRE D'OVIDIO (REFTEL). SEVERAL DC SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED TO US LONGSTANDING, CLOSE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TIES BINDING PRESIDENT LEONE TO LEFEBVRE. TIES INVOLVING ALLEDGED ASSISTANCE EXTENDED BY LEONE TO LEFEBVRE IN MAKING LUCRATIVE DEALS WITH ARABS AND IRANIANS HAVE BEEN CITED AS PARTICULARLY DAMAGING.

2. WHILE NO ONE WE HAVE TALKED WITH THINKS LEONE INVOLVED IN LOCKHEED PAYMENTS, CONSIDERABLE CONCERN IS BEING EXPRESSED THAT MUD CURRENTLY BEING THROWN TOWARD QUIRINALE PALACE MAY DAMAGE PRESTIGE OF ITALIAN PRESIDENCY AT TIME WHEN FEW STATE INSTITUTIONS STILL HAVE THEIR REPUTATIONS INTACT. VOLPE

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